From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech, Presented by T-Mobile: House Judiciary Panel to Open "Broad Investigation" of Big Tech
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 5:14:59 AM

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By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

- David Cicilline (D-R.I.), chairman of the House Judiciary's antitrust subcommittee, said his panel is opening a "broad investigation" into major tech companies, such as Facebook Inc., Google, Amazon.com Inc. and Apple Inc., to assess any possible monopolistic and anti-competitive behavior. A formal investigation gives the committee the ability to request documents and compel company executives to testify at hearings, which will be used to inform antitrust legislation and regulatory actions, and Cicilline said he's aiming to wrap up the investigation by the end of 2020. (Politico)

- AT&T Inc., Verizon Communications Inc. and T-Mobile US Inc. were the top bidders in the Federal Communications Commission auctions for two wireless spectrum bands, with Verizon bidding $505 million on the first auction for 28 gigahertz licenses, AT&T bidding $983 million on 24 GHz licenses and T-Mobile bidding $803 million in the latter auction. Bidding in the latest auctions, which were designed to spur 5G investments, totaled less than $3 billion, compared to the nearly $20 billion raised in a previous agency auction of frequencies used by broadcasters for cellphone use. (The Wall Street Journal)

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has agreed to hold a closed-door security briefing on the threat of election interference and law enforcement ahead of the 2020 elections, said Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.). Schumer, who has been pushing for such a hearing for weeks, said that the timing of the hearing is still being determined but that it should be held before the current work period ends at the end of June so lawmakers have enough time to pass any necessary legislation at least a year before the election. (The Hill)

Chart Review

How much Google contractors say they get paid compared to full-time employees
Recode

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

06/04/2019

Apple's WWDC 2019	
Fiber Broadband Association's Fiber Connect conference	
FTC Commissioner Rohit Chopra's fireside chat at TACD "Consumer Protection in the Digital Sphere" public forum	9:00 am
New America's panel discussion to launch its Data & Great	

Power Competition	9:30 am
House Oversight Committee's second hearing in its facial recognition series	10:00 am
Senate Banking Committee's hearing on threats from China	10:00 am
House Energy and Commerce Committee's hearing on the Stelar review	10:30 am
House Small Business Committee hearing on apprenticeships and training programs for the "skills" gap	11:30 am

06/05/2019

Apple's WWDC 2019	
Fiber Broadband Association's Fiber Connect conference	
IAB's NextGen Marketing conference	
Senate Commerce Committee's hearing on the television and video marketplace	10:00 am
Technology Policy Institute's event on C-band spectrum	12:00 pm
EPIC's panel on AI and human rights	1:00 pm
Senate Judiciary Committee's second hearing on the state of patent eligibility in the U.S.	2:30 pm
The Information's D.C. happy hour	6:00 pm
EPIC's Champions of Freedom Awards, including honorees Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Rep. Jan Schakowsky	6:30 pm

06/06/2019

Apple's WWDC 2019	
FT Future of News	8:00 am
Bloomberg's "The Rise of 5G: Empowering the Next Enterprise Evolution" event	8:00 am
FCC's June Open Commission Meeting	10:30 am

06/07/2019

Apple's WWDC 2019

The Capitol Forum's conversation with former FCC Chairman and author Reed Hundt 12:15 pm

06/10/2019

Code Conference 2019

06/11/2019

Code Conference 2019

RightsCon

View full calendar

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General

Uber Under Tax Investigation by IRS, Foreign Authorities
Giles Turner, Bloomberg

Uber Technologies Inc. is under investigation from U.S. tax authorities and said that its potential tax charges in a number of key markets could change.

Key Google Roles Vacant as Regulatory Pressure Mounts
Ashley Gold, The Information

As regulators ramp up their antitrust scrutiny of Google, the tech giant's global policy team is still adapting to a sweeping reorganization instituted by its new public policy chief, Karan Bhatia, a former longtime General Electric executive. Some key roles remain unfilled, most notably the top U.S. lobbyist job, which has been vacant since November. Google also has yet to announce who will lead policy for the company at YouTube and for the European region.

Mexico Warns of Retaliation for U.S. Tariffs
Anthony Harrup and José de Córdoba, The Wall Street Journal

Mexico is exploring possible retaliation to the threat of U.S. tariffs on all of its exports but would rather convince the Trump administration that a negotiated solution is in both countries' best interest, senior officials said Monday.

Joe Biden's aides huddle with Bay Area fundraisers while he takes heat for skipping California convention
Brian Schwartz, CNBC

While Joe Biden was catching flak for skipping a Democratic convention in California over the weekend, two of his senior campaign advisors met with fundraisers in the Bay Area to hash out a strategy to beat out other 2020 candidates in the cash game.

House Intelligence panel to examine 'deepfake' videos in June
Olivia Beavers, The Hill

The House Intelligence Committee has slated a hearing in June that will examine a series of national security matters, including the threat of videos manipulated by artificial intelligence (AI) that look strikingly real, a panel aide said.

Stocks Advance After Tech Rout; Treasuries Retreat: Markets Wrap
Todd White, Bloomberg

U.S. equity futures climbed and stocks in Europe reversed earlier losses as

investors tried to shrug off negative sentiment following Monday's rout in technology shares. Treasuries dropped for the first time in a week while the dollar edged up.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

Elizabeth Warren Sticks Her Message in Big Tech's Face
Nellie Bowles, The New York Times

A threat of government regulation is casting a shadow over the tech industry. Now there is a billboard to remind tech workers about it on their commutes.

EU wants to hear from Apple over Spotify complaint
Foo Yun Chee, Reuters

EU regulators will decide what steps to take regarding Spotify's complaint about Apple once they get a response from the iPhone maker, Europe's antitrust chief said on Monday. World No.1 music streaming service Spotify complained to the European Commission in March that Apple unfairly limits competitors to its Apple Music streaming service.

The head of the Justice Department division reportedly preparing an antitrust investigation into Google used to be a lobbyist defending Google against antitrust concerns
Nick Bastone, Business Insider

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - the two US government agencies with jurisdiction over antitrust probes - reportedly worked out an arrangement that would give the DOJ oversight over a potential investigation into Google. That arrangement highlights a certain historical irony, however.

Google can tap influence army as antitrust pressure mounts
Steven Overly et al., Politico

Google has spent the past decade amassing a vast influence network in Washington - an army of potential allies it could soon need to activate as lawmakers and regulators ramp up the threat of antitrust probes of the company.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

Trump urges customers to drop AT&T to punish CNN over its coverage of him
Craig Timberg et al., The Washington Post

President Trump took his long-running attacks against CNN to a new level on Monday by suggesting in tweets that a consumer boycott of its parent company, AT&T, could force "big changes" at the news organization.

U.S. urges judge to deny Huawei motion in government effort to disqualify lawyer
Karen Freifeld, Reuters

U.S. prosecutors on Monday asked a judge to reject a motion by China's Huawei seeking information on the grounds for a government request to disqualify the company's lead defense lawyer in a criminal case alleging bank fraud and sanctions violations.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Facebook May Be Ordered to Block Users' Offensive Posts Globally
Stephanie Bodoni, Bloomberg

Facebook Inc. may be ordered to remove offensive content posted by users in the European Union and then also hunt for similar posts anywhere in the world, an adviser to the bloc's top court said.

GOP senator asks Apple to offer 'Do Not Track' option for customers
Emily Birnbaum, The Hill

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) on Monday morning sent a letter to Apple CEO Tim Cook asking him to institute a "Do Not Track" option for Apple customers, which would allow users to opt out of any online tracking on the App Store beyond what is "indispensable" for the programs to run.

Facebook Investors Vote for Change at Top. But They Can't Win
Kurt Wagner, Bloomberg

Facebook Inc. Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg has himself to thank for the

fact he's still chairman of the company's board. Results from the Facebook's annual shareholder meeting last week show that many of the investor proposals intended to limit Zuckerberg's power over the company he co-founded would have passed - if not for Zuckerberg's voting power.

Dozens strip down outside Facebook office to protest nudity rules on social network
Shelby Brown, CNET

Despite Facebook's policies that make certain allowances for nudity on the social network, some artists say the rules prevent them from sharing their work online. On Sunday, artist and photographer Spencer Tunick created a nude installation outside of Facebook and Instagram's New York office with help from the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC).

Apple restricts ads and third-party trackers in iPhone apps for kids
Zack Whittaker, TechCrunch

Apple has told developers to stop including third-party trackers in apps designed for kids - or they face having their apps pulled from the app store. The tech giant quietly updated its guidelines for apps that are submitted to the app store's kids category following the keynote address at its annual developer conference on Monday.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

New York's Privacy Bill Is Even Bolder Than California's
Issie Lapowsky, Wired

As tech giants and lobbying groups race to defang California's landmark consumer privacy law before it takes effect next year, lawmakers on the other side of the country are considering a bill that's even more drastic. The New York Privacy Act, introduced last month by state senator Kevin Thomas, would give residents there more control over their data than in any other state.

Apple Announces New 'Sign in With Apple' Privacy Feature
Mark Gurman, Bloomberg

Apple Inc. announced a slew of new privacy features on Monday, including a new "Sign in With Apple" capability. The tool rivals similar sign-in buttons

from Facebook Inc. and Google that are found on many websites or on apps.

Huawei and Former Worker Accuse Each Other of Stealing Secrets
Dennis Robertson and Susan Decker, Bloomberg

Huawei Technologies Co. and Silicon Valley startup CNEX Labs Inc. each accused the other of stealing technology related to data storage at the beginning of a trial in which the Chinese telecom giant is seeking to persuade a American jury of its innovation prowess.

Amazon Offered Job To Pentagon Official Involved With $10 Billion Contract It Sought
Alex Emmons, The Intercept

In a federal lawsuit, the tech giant Oracle has provided new details to support its accusation that Amazon secretly negotiated a job offer with a then-Department of Defense official who helped shape the procurement process for a massive federal contract for which Amazon was a key bidder.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

The Dangers of Russian Leverage in the Space Race
Phil Kiver, Morning Consult

The space race, thought to have been won following the collapse of the Soviet Union, has re-emerged. This time, rather than simply returning to the moon, both the United States and Russia are seeking to cement their authority on the next battlefield, which is space.

Apple Is a Tech Regulator
April Glaser, Slate

The best feature announced at the Worldwide Developers Conference is a jab at other tech giants and a win for web users. Well, some users.

Protecting our elections must be bipartisan priority for lawmakers
Matthew Weil, The Hill

We know the Russians interfered in our elections in 2016. They probed voter registration records and breached state voter databases in at least two known

instances. While election officials are preparing for foreign adversaries to try again in 2020, there is unfortunately no assurance that those adversaries will not change up their tactics and targets.

Research Reports

Ensuring America Reaches Its 5G Potential
The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Making good on his promise to invest in the Industries of the Future, President Donald J. Trump is ensuring the United States leads in the global race to deploy secure and reliable 5G communications. This Administration's policies empower innovation and investment in America's 5G readiness, paving the way for what are sure to be some of the most substantial technological and economic advancements of the 21st century.

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